

## Message Text

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61

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 SCCT-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 CU-02

EUR-12 /085 W

----- 002532

R 271255Z NOV 74

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6335

HINFO RUQMKG/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 3364

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 1707

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 2064

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PBOR, IS JO

SUBJ: WEST BANK DEMONSTRATIONS

REF: JERUSALEM 2053

1. QUIET RETURNED TO EAST JERUSALEM AND WEST BANK LAST WEEK-END AFTER WEEK AND A HALF OF CIVIL DISTURBANCES. STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS HAD PRETTY MUCH RUN THEIR COURSE, AND END OF UN PALESTINE DEBATE AND ONSET OF LONG-DELAYED WINTER RAINS HELPED. IN BETHLEHEM ISRAELI AUTHORITIES HAVE REPORTEDLY BACKED OFF FROM PRESSING COLLECTION OF LARGE FINES. IN BIR ZEIT, WE UNDERSTAND HANNA NASIR SENT BACK WORD THAT STUDENTS SHOULD RETURN TO CLASS (THUS ALSO RELAXING SITUATION IN BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY).

2. IF INITIATORS OF DEMONSTRATIONS HAD HOPED FOR MASS TURNOUT OF ARAB POPULATION THEY HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTED. NEVERTHELESS, AS THESE THINGS GO ON WEST BANK, SUCH WIDESPREAD AND PROLONGED  
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MANIFESTATIONS ARE MAJOR EVENT EVEN IF THEY INVOLVE MAINLY

STUDENTS. ATTEMPTS TO GET DEMONSTRATIONS GOING IN PAST FEW YEARS (ANNUAL JUNE 5 COMMEMORATION, E.G.) HAVE LARGELY FAILED. SUCCESS THIS TIME IS ATTRIBUTABLE MAINLY TO NEW ATMOSPHERE SINCE OCTOBER WAR AND PARTICULARLY SINCE RABAT. THERE IS LESS FEAR OF ISRAELIS AND GREATER SENSE THAT SOMETHING IS TO BE GAINED BY DECLARING ONESELF EVEN AT RISK OF ISRAELI DISPLEASURE.

3. WEST BANKERS HAVE BEEN LEFT WITH FEELING OF SATISFACTION THAT THEY MADE THEIR VOICES HEARD, COUPLED WITH INCREASED BITTERNESS, AND SOME CONTEMPT, TOWARD ISRAELIS FOR WHAT THEY SEE AS HEAVY-HANDED AND SLIGHTLY PANICKY REACTION. COMING WHEN THEY DCP, DEMONSTRATIONS AND CONFRONTATIONS FURTHER NOURISHED SENSE OF IDENTITY AS PALESTINIANS, PARTICULARLY AMONG YOUTH (FRENCH FRIAR AT COLLEGE DES FRERES RECOUNTS COMMENT OF ISRAELI ARAB STUDENT; "AFTER THIS WE'RE ALL PALESTINIANS").

4. FUTURE IMPLICATIONS ARE QUESTION MARK. WE DO NOT SEE THESE EVENTS AS BEGINNING OF BREAKDOWN IN ISRAELI CONTROL ON WEST BANK, BUT SITUATION WILL REMAIN MORE VOLATILE THAN HITHERTO, RESPONSIVE TO OUTSIDE EVENTS. TOUGH ISRAELI REACTION HAS PROBABLY SUCCEEDED IN DISCOURAGING FURTHER TROUBLE FOR A WHILE. MEMORIES OF YOUTH ARE SHORT, HOWEVER, AND TASTE OF THE STREETS, WE HEAR, HAS HAD ITS APPEAL.  
DAY

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## Message Attributes

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